

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of October 19, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying compact disc submission and Amendment of the specification and claims, and the following Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

the specification is amended to cancel the computer program listings of over three hundred (300) lines and to insert a reference to the computer program listing appendix on compact disc at the beginning of the specification and in the portions of the specification at which the computer program listings have been cancelled;

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the one or more pieces of secret information are one or more secret keys for use with a corresponding encryption or decryption function. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in the sections entitled "7 Key and key related data", "8 Operating and state data" and "9 Session data" of the present specification;

dependent claims 10 and 11 are amended to conform with amended independent claim 1; and

dependent claims 2-9 and 12-21 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the Amendments to not add any new matter to the present application, nor any new issues to the prosecution of the present application because the subject matter incorporated into independent claim 1 is presently recited in dependent claim 10.

Regarding Compact Disc Submission

As requested by the Examiner, a compact disc of the "computer program listing" part of the specification is being submitted herewith as an appendix of the specification and the specification has been amended to cancel the computer program listings and to insert a reference to the computer program listing appendix on compact disc at the beginning of the specification and in the portions of the specification at which the computer program listings have been cancelled.

Regarding 35 USC 102(e) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of above-described amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-21 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by previously cited Meisel, for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been amended to limit the method of the claimed invention to pertain to the secret keys used for signature generation and verification described at the sections entitled "7 Key and key related data", "8 Operating and state data" and "9 Session data" of the present specification, and as discussed by the Applicant in the Reply to the previous Office Action.

Accordingly, the claimed invention is clearly distinguished from Meisel, since Meisel merely discloses a login application in which an advertiser's or administrator's user name and password are requested for authentication by an account management server and audit trail information regarding such user names and passwords are generated and communicated (see col. 12, line 52-col. 13, line 40 of Meisel).

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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